

Message Text

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R 141620Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222989

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AMEMBASSY
WELLINGTON INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA FROM SECSTATE WASHDC
12 NOV 73 (122059Z NOV 73):

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, NZ, ID, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND MALIK
VISIT

REF: CANBERRA 6081

1. INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTTEL IS FIRST DEPARTMENT
HAS RECEIVED ON CONCEPT OF A "SOUTHWEST PACIFIC CONSULTATIVE
GROUP." THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE NOTION THAT KIRK WAS FLOATING
WITH MALIK IN PRELIMINARY WAY, AND TWO ASPECTS ARE SUR-
PRISING. FIRST, EXCLUSION OF US FROM SUCH A GROUP NOT ONLY
IGNORES FACT OF US TERRITORY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, BUT
ALSO RUNS COUNTER TO THRUST OF DISCUSSIONS DURING KIRK'S
RECENT US VISIT IN WHICH KIRK URGED MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN
SOUTH PACIFIC ON PART OF US. (US EXCLUSION PARTICULARLY
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SURPRISING GIVEN INCLUSION FRENCH AND BRITISH.)

SECONDLY, THIS IS FIRST SERIOUS APPROACH TO INDONESIA TO TAKE PART IN SOUTH PACIFIC GROUPING; THE EXPECTED BENEFITS OF INDONESIA'S PARTICIPATION ARE NOT READILY APPARENT.

2. FOR CANBERRA. DEPARTMENT WILL BE INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU DEVELOP ON THIS SUBJECT, AND ESPECIALLY DFA REACTION TO THE TWO ASPECTS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

3. FOR WELLINGTON. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION

ON ACCURACY OF MALIK'S VERSION, AND ON NEW ZEALAND THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING RATIONALE FOR APPROACH TO INDONESIA AND EXCLUSION OF US, TYPE AND PURPOSE OF GROUP, AND DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH IDEA IS BEING PURSUED. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE REPORTING ON ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE FROM MALIK VISIT. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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